

Fred Burris
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January 25, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

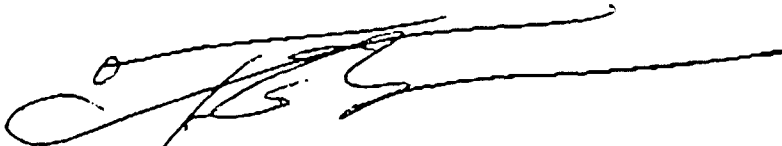
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

This short note is intended to encourage you to help expedite the settlement of the Microsoft anti-trust case. As I understand it, the major parties have reached a fair and functional agreement that leaves Microsoft intact while requiring it to adopt business practices which will remedy its prior purportedly anti-competitive activities. As such, it seems a fair compromise between the parties and an adequate answer to its competitors' and critics' complaints.

The compromise plan calls for Microsoft to actively encourage competition in the industry by liberally sharing its technology and platforms with its competitors. By the latter, I mean the company will now license its products to computer manufacturers without Windows software exclusivity requirements and render its ubiquitous Windows platforms more readily accessible to non-Windows software. These acts alone will generate both competition and innovation. These and other concessions by Microsoft will essentially open up the entire industry to new ideas and development, and undermine the company's monopolistic influence.

This agreement is fair; it is needed and needed now. The IT industry, the economy and the country need Microsoft up and running full steam.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Fred Burris', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Fred Burris